

**In the Matter of:
Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act**

Service List

*The Honorable William E. Kennard, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.-Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

*The Honorable Harold Furchtgott-Roth, Commissioner
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*The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
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*The Honorable Michael Powell, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
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***HAND DELIVERED**



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D. C. 20530

JAN 22 1998

Mr. Matthew J. Flanigan
President
Telecommunications Industry Association
2500 Wilson Boulevard
Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201-3834

Dear Mr. Flanigan:

This letter responds to concerns expressed recently by members of the telecommunications industry with respect to the taking (or forbearance) of enforcement actions under the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA).

As you know, in enacting CALEA, Congress intended to preserve law enforcement's electronic surveillance capabilities and to prevent those capabilities from being eroded by technological impediments related to advanced telecommunications technologies, services, and features. To that end, Congress also specified that the solutions to overcome these impediments must be implemented within four years of the date of CALEA's enactment. The deadline for carriers to comply with section 103 of CALEA is October 25, 1998.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is working diligently with members of the industry, both individually and collectively, to ensure that the carriers and manufacturers are able to meet the deadline. In those situations where the carrier can foresee that it will not be able to meet the deadline because the manufacturer has yet to develop the solutions, the FBI is prepared to enter into an agreement with the manufacturer of the carrier's equipment wherein both parties (the FBI and a manufacturer) would agree upon the technological requirements and functionality for a specific switch platform (or other non-switch solution) and a reasonable and fair deployment schedule which would include verifiable milestones. In return, the Department will not pursue an enforcement action against the manufacturer or carrier as long as the terms of the agreement are met in the time frames specified. The Department will not pursue enforcement action against any carrier utilizing the switch platform (or non-switch solution) named in the agreement. Finally, the Department will support a carrier's petition to the Federal Communications

Mr. Matthew J. Flanigan
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Commission (FCC) for an extension of the compliance date for the equipment named in the agreement and for the length of time specified in the agreement. Where an agreement has been signed, if a dispute arises between the manufacturer and the FBI which cannot be resolved, the manufacturer may appeal the issue directly to the Attorney General or her designate for prompt resolution.

Your continued willingness to work toward solutions which will support law enforcement's electronic surveillance requirements is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Janet Reno".

/ Janet Reno

ATTACHMENT B



U.S. Department of Justice

FEB 3 1998

Washington, DC 20530

Mr. Tom Barba
Stephoe & Johnson LLP
Attorney at Law
1330 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036-1795

Dear Mr. Barba:

This letter confirms discussions held between the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and representatives of the telecommunications industry during a January 23, 1998, meeting¹ regarding DOJ's position on the legal status under the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA) of the 11 electronic surveillance capabilities (referred to as the "punch list") that are missing from the current Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) electronic surveillance standard J-STD-025. Additionally, it confirms the terms and conditions upon which DOJ will forbear bringing enforcement actions against industry members for non-compliance with CALEA.

"Punch List"

DOJ has reviewed the 11 "punch list" capabilities in reference to CALEA, its legislative history, and the underlying electronic surveillance statutes². In addition, DOJ reviewed a memorandum evaluating the "punch list" under CALEA that was prepared by the Office of General Counsel (OGC) of the FBI. As a result of its

¹Those in attendance at the January 23, 1998, meeting included representatives from the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association (CTIA), Personal Communications Industry Association (PCIA), Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), United States Telephone Association (USTA), Bell Atlantic, Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

² CALEA was enacted to preserve the electronic surveillance capabilities of law enforcement commensurate with the legal authority found in the underlying electronic surveillance statutes, and so that electronic surveillance efforts could be conducted properly pursuant to these statutes.

review, DOJ is providing the following legal opinion: 9 of the 11 capabilities are clearly within the scope of CALEA and the underlying electronic surveillance statutes. These nine capabilities are¹:

- Content of conferenced calls;
- Party Hold, Party Join, Party Drop;
- Access to subject-initiated dialing and signaling;
- Notification Message (in-band and out-of-band signaling);
- Timing to correlate call data and call content;
- Surveillance Status Message;
- Feature Status Message;
- Continuity Check; and
- Post cut-through dialing and signaling.

With respect to the first four capabilities (Content of conferenced calls; Party Hold, Party Join, Party Drop; Access to subject-initiated dialing and signaling; and Notification Message of in-band and out-of-band signaling), DOJ firmly believes that law enforcement's analysis and position regarding these assistance capability requirements satisfy CALEA section 103 requirements. These descriptions are set forth in the response submitted by the FBI⁴ to TIA Committee TR45.2 during the balloting process on standards document SP-3580A.

With respect to the fifth through the ninth capabilities (Timing to correlate call data and call content; Surveillance Status Message; Feature Status Message; Continuity Check; and Post cut-through dialing and signaling), DOJ has also concluded that law enforcement's position satisfies CALEA section 103 requirements. Because of this opinion, discussion between the industry and law enforcement will be required in order to select a mutually acceptable means of delivering the information specified by each capability. Thus, if industry disagrees with law enforcement's proposed delivery method, it must affirmatively propose a meaningful and effective alternative.

Based upon the foregoing analysis, it is DOJ's opinion that TIA interim standard J-STD-025 is failing to include and properly address the nine capabilities listed above. Industry and law enforcement may wish to act in concert to revise the interim standard J-STD-025 to include solutions for each of these missing electronic surveillance capabilities.

¹ See Items 1-7, 9, and 10 of Attachment A.

⁴ The FBI is closely coordinating its efforts with state and local law enforcement representatives across the nation. In this document "law enforcement" and "FBI" refer to this partnership and are used interchangeably.

With respect to capability number eight (Standardized Delivery Interface), although a single delivery interface is not mandated by CALEA, DOJ believes that a single, standard interface would be cost effective and of great benefit to both law enforcement and telecommunications carriers. Recent productive discussions with industry have resulted in what DOJ believes is an acceptable compromise, whereby the industry would commit to a limited number of no more than five delivery interfaces. DOJ supports such an agreement.

With respect to capability number 11 (Separated Delivery), DOJ, while recognizing the usefulness of such delivery for the effectiveness of electronic surveillance, nevertheless does not believe that CALEA section 103, or the underlying electronic surveillance statutes, require separated delivery.

Building on the progress made during the final months of 1997, the FBI's CALEA Implementation Section (CIS) will continue to work with solution providers⁵ to reach an agreement on the technical feasibility of all the CALEA capability requirements.

Forbearance

During the January 23, 1998, meeting, the parties discussed the conditions under which DOJ would agree not to pursue enforcement actions against the carrier under section 108 of CALEA with regard to the CALEA mandate that a carrier meet the assistance capability requirements pursuant to CALEA section 103 by October 25, 1998, or against a manufacturer with respect to its obligation under CALEA section 106(b) to make features or modifications available on a "reasonably timely basis." A letter from the Office of the Attorney General, which was provided to all meeting attendees, outlined the basic conditions regarding forbearance:

In those situations where the carrier can foresee that it will not be able to meet the deadline because the manufacturer has yet to develop the solutions, the FBI is prepared to enter into an agreement with the manufacturer of the carrier's equipment wherein both parties (the FBI and a manufacturer) would agree upon the technological requirements and functionality for a specific switch platform (or other non-switch solution) and a reasonable and fair deployment schedule which would include verifiable milestones. In return, DOJ will not pursue an enforcement action against the manufacturer or carrier as long as the terms of the agreement are met in the time frames specified. DOJ

⁵ Solutions providers include not only switch-based manufacturers, and support service providers, but other industry entities that are engaged in the development of network-based and other CALEA-compliant solutions.

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will not pursue enforcement action against any carrier utilizing the switch platform (or non-switch solution) named in the agreement.

DOJ, in consultation with the FBI, has further elaborated on the conditions related to forbearance as follows:

Any member of the telecommunications industry seeking forbearance must submit to CIS a statement that identifies the following:

1. The CALEA capability requirements that will be included in its platform or designed into any non-switch-based solution.
2. The projected date by which the platform, or non-switch-based solution, will be made commercially available, the "commercially available date."
3. A timeline for design, development, and testing milestones that will be achieved by the manufacturer from the start of the project through the commercially available date, the "milestone timeline."
4. A schedule for furnishing information to CIS at each milestone to permit CIS to verify that a milestone has been reached.
5. A list of specific types of information to be provided according to the foregoing schedule.
6. A schedule for providing mutually agreed upon data to CIS from which the Government will be able to determine the fairness and reasonableness of the CALEA solution price.
7. A list of the specific types of price-related data to be provided.

With respect to item 1, the term "CALEA capability requirements" refers to the functions defined in the TIA interim standard J-STD-025 and the first nine punch list capabilities described earlier in this letter. Law enforcement will work with each solution provider as it produces a technical feasibility study to confirm its understanding of, and ability to meet, the CALEA capability requirements. For those switching platforms, or non-switch-based solutions, on which a capability is technically infeasible, law enforcement will consult with solution providers to assess the possibility of providing effective technical alternatives that will still provide law enforcement with the necessary evidentiary and minimization data sought by the capability.

With respect to item 2, the term "commercially available date" refers to the date when the platform or non-switch-based solution

will be made available by the solution provider for the immediate purchase and deployment by a carrier. That date shall, in no event, extend beyond the first currently scheduled software generic product release after the October 25, 1998, capability compliance date. With respect to item 3, the term "milestone timeline" refers to a schedule of the necessary design, development, and testing steps to be taken by a solution provider in making a product commercially available. With respect to item 4, a solution provider is expected to include a schedule specifying the time after the completion of each milestone when CIS will be able to verify that the milestone has been reached. With respect to item 5, the specific types of information contained in the affirmative confirmation of the foregoing schedule will include, but not be limited to, draft design documents, feature specification documents, and test results. With respect to item 6, a solution provider is expected to provide a schedule detailing the delivery to CIS of all necessary information for the government to make a determination of the fairness and reasonableness of the price of the solution provider's commercially available CALEA solution. With respect to item 7, the specific types of information contained in the price-related information of the foregoing schedule will include, but not be limited to, market prices of comparable features with similar levels of design, development, and testing effort.

Forbearance for a solution provider, and its carrier customers, will be conditioned upon its ability to provide the above listed items as well as to meet verifiable solution development milestones. A solution provider's failure to meet these milestones will result in the loss of forbearance for the solution provider.

Carrier forbearance ends with the commercial availability of a solution. Switches, or portions of a network, of historical importance to law enforcement for which the government must reimburse the carrier will be identified by CIS. Equipment, facilities, and services installed or deployed after January 1, 1995, will be included in any forbearance until a solution is commercially available. Following solution availability, for those switches or portions of a network not identified by CIS, carriers are expected to follow their normal deployment processes in determining which switches, or portions of their networks, will be upgraded with the CALEA capabilities. Figure 1 illustrates the basic elements of forbearance.

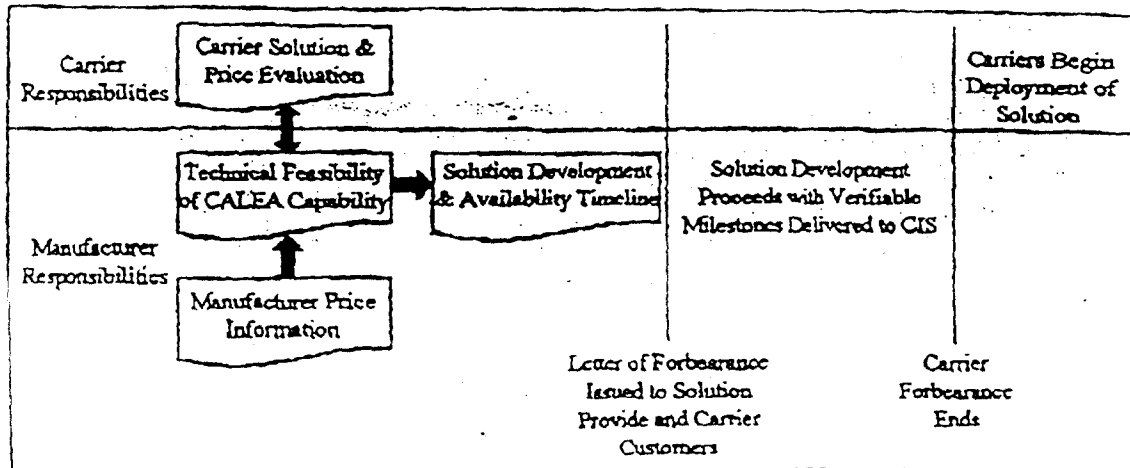


Figure 1: Forbearance

The foregoing forbearance discussion centers on two separate and distinct agreements: Agreements in Principle (AIP) between the FBI and a solution provider, and Cooperative Agreements between the FBI and a carrier.

In an AIP, the FBI and solution providers agree that solution providers have complied with the seven criteria listed above, including a feasibility analysis and pricing information for CALEA capability requirements. The feasibility analysis and pricing information will allow the government to finalize its position regarding the standard, extension of the compliance dates, forbearance, etc. The FBI, in consultation with law enforcement, will not be in a position to make critical determinations until the information described in the above seven criteria has been provided.

Currently many versions of draft AIPs are circulating, both FBI- and industry-generated, and some are more comprehensive than is presently warranted. Some of the AIPs in circulation were derived from an AIP drafted by TIA. The FBI hopes to meet with TIA during the week of February 2, 1998, to discuss the proposed AIP. The results of these discussions will then be disseminated to TIA's membership and any other interested solution provider.

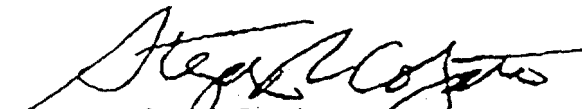
The Cooperative Agreement, on the other hand, is the contractual vehicle whereby telecommunications carriers will receive reimbursement for their eligible CALEA costs. Cooperative Agreements may be executed for different purposes at different stages of CALEA implementation. For example, an initial round of Cooperative Agreement negotiations is taking place to establish contractual vehicles whereby carriers selected to support specific solution providers with the feasibility analyses and pricing information may receive reimbursement for assisting in

this effort. Unfortunately, this initial round of negotiations has encountered some problems. One of the issues is the clarification of a carrier's role in assisting in the analysis of the solution provider's proposed solution. It appears from discussions with carriers that a mutual understanding of the intent of the government's proposed language for the Cooperative Agreements and its Statement of Work (SOW) does not yet exist. Carriers commented that the SOW included a consultative role that the carriers are unable or unwilling to perform. Although it was the government's intent to construct an SOW flexible enough to allow carriers to accommodate their normal roles in the solution provider product development process, the proposals received in response to the SOW have been too non-specific to provide real value.

The FBI still believes, and has had it confirmed by solution providers, that carriers have an essential role to play in developing the CALEA solution. The FBI will now request that each solution provider describe in detail the typical interaction it might have with one of its carrier customers during new product development. These descriptions will then be incorporated into the proposed SOWs, which the government will seek from carriers.

Your continued willingness to work with law enforcement toward the development of electronic surveillance solutions is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,


Stephen R. Colgate
Assistant Attorney General
for Administration

ATTACHMENT A

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PUNCH-LIST CAPABILITIES

Number	Name	Description
1	Content of subject-initiated conference calls	Capability would enable law enforcement access to content of conference calls supported by the subject's service (including the call content of parties on hold).
2	Party Hold, Join, Drop	Messages would be sent to law enforcement that identify the active parties of a call. Specifically, on a conference call, these messages would indicate whether a party is on hold, has joined or has been dropped from the conference call.
3	Access to subject-initiated dialing and signaling	Access to all dialing and signaling information available from the subject would inform law enforcement of a subject's use of features. (Examples include the use of flash-hook, and other feature keys.)
4	In-band and out-of-band signaling (Notification Message)	A message would be sent to law enforcement when a subject's service sends a tone or other network message to the subject or associate. This can include notification that a line is ringing or busy.
5	Timing to associate call data to content	Information necessary to correlate call identifying information with the call content of a communications interception.
6	Surveillance Status Message	Message that would provide the verification that an interception is still functioning on the appropriate subject.
7	Continuity Check (C-Tone)	Electronic signal that would alert law enforcement if the facility used for delivery of call content interception has failed or lost continuity.
8	Standardized delivery interface	Would limit the number of potential delivery interfaces law enforcement would need to accommodate from the industry.
9	Feature Status Message	Message would provide affirmative notification of any change in a subject's subscribed-to features.
10	Post cut-through dialing and signaling	Information would include those digits dialed by a subject after the initial call setup is completed.
11	Separated delivery	Each party to a communication would be delivered separately to law enforcement, without combining all the voices of an intercepted (conference) call.